(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

Violence by ULFA in Assam

317. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he, during his recent visit to Myanmar, discussed the issue of stepped up violence by ULFA and its threat to the Hindi speaking and other outsiders to leave the State and urged to explore ways to destroy and uproot ULFA camps and its members who are using its territory to create disturbance in Assam;

(b) whether India and Myanmar agreed to expedite work on fencing their common border and to supply military hardware to institutionalise cooperation between their armies for operations against ULFA and other insurgent groups in the North-East; and

(c) to what extent this decision helped in reducing the threat?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) The External Affairs Minister paid on official visit to Myanmar from 19-21 January, 2007. During his meetings with the Myanmar leadership, the full range of bilateral relations was discussed including the activities of Indian Insurgent Groups on the Indo-Myanmar border. Myanmar reiterated its commitment not to allow its territory to be used for activities inimical to India. Discussions with the Myanmar leadership also dwelt on defence cooperation and border management.

Safety of Indians in Iraq

318. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after the execution of Saddam Hussein in Baghdad, there has been a spurt in incidents of blasts in Iraq;

(b) if so, whether there has been any casualty of Indians living there; and